

effects and household goods were burned.

It is in considering the small personal things that the absoluteness of destruction makes itself felt. One's bunch of keys, for instance. The office-building key—throw it away, the building is no more, and so the office key, and the desk, and the office closet. Next comes the house-door key—it, too, is useless, as well as the trunk keys. The club keys, too, can go, for the clubs are gone already. Shall I telephone? There is no such thing! Would I have a glass of water? In more than four-fifths of the city there is not a drop. On every side there is nothing but burned ruin and torn and twisted streets. Yet already are plans for rebuilding made; tracks for removing debris are laid into the heart of the ruin, and later, materials for the construction of a new heart of a new San Francisco will be brought in on them.

HELP NEEDED.

Several hundreds of physicians have lost all that they had in the shape of office equipment as well as, in many instances, their personal effects. The large number of people who have left the city, together with the inability of those who remain to locate their former physicians, will cause much distress. From the Secretary of the A. M. A. has come a welcome word of sympathy and assurance that aid will be secured. From Dr. Frank C. Todd has come a telegram to Dr. H. Bert. Ellis offering aid from the physicians of Minneapolis, and from Dr. J. N. McCormack has come a telegram authorizing the Secretary to draw on him for funds. All are gratefully acknowledged. Such funds as may be raised had best be sent to Dr. Frank Adams, 1230 Telegraph avenue, Oakland, an ex-President of the State Society, as the officers of the County Society have not yet been reached. Those who aid in this relief may rest assured that their contributions will be gratefully received and carefully expended. Donations of minor instruments and office necessities may also be sent and will be of value in helping to start some of the victims of our disaster.

Since the foregoing paragraph was written word has reached us that subscriptions are being collected in Chicago, New York, Brooklyn, St. Louis and other cities, and that the Journal of the A. M. A. has offered to receive and transmit subscriptions. The widely scattered physicians of San Francisco are being slowly located, and it is hoped that a meeting may soon be called at which plans for properly distributing the funds collected may be discussed and arranged. It has been suggested that all money advanced be in the nature of loans, to be repaid when possible, and that the sums thus repaid be

put into a fund for reforming the library of the County Medical Society, which, of course, was totally destroyed. This is, of course, merely a suggestion, but on first consideration it seems to be a good one. As it will take time to arrange the details and as no time should be lost in remitting such sums as may be collected for this work, payments should be sent to Dr. Frank Adams as soon as possible.

THE REAL SUFFERERS.

Probably those who will feel the distress of the recent catastrophe most keenly are the members of the professions, and especially physicians and dentists. Most of these have limited incomes and most live up to them and have little, if anything, saved. The very poor are cared for now and will be, in all probability, until work is provided for them. The rich can provide for themselves, and do not call for our sympathy or our aid. But the professional man who has lost his all—his books, his office equipment, his instruments and his home—can hardly be placed in either of these classes. At the time of writing many physicians, taking no thought for themselves, are serving gratuitously and without hope of reward in the sanitary work of the city, and their immediate bodily wants are supplied. But as conditions settle down more and more to the normal their services will not be required, and in time they will suffer want. Many of them could re-establish themselves in time had they the necessary outfit, but all their equipment is gone. If every medical society in the country would make but a small contribution, and if every doctor who has instruments that he does not need, or office equipment that he can do without, would send them to his brother physicians in California, much distress will be alleviated. We do not ask for charity, but for that aid which will help men to help themselves.

STATE SOCIETY.

For the State Society we ask nothing. We began with nothing and hardly any advertisers that thought the JOURNAL would live a year. We are infinitely better off now that we have to make a second start, for we have a number of advertisers who believe in our work and in our future. Growth after this second incarnation, following a fiery germination, will be hard, but much easier than our first. Some of our advertisers still owe us money, and we will ask all of these to settle their accounts as quickly as possible.